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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Koji AMANO

Group Art Unit: 2174

Application No.: 09/985,999

Examiner: T. VU

Filed: November 7, 2001

Docket No.: 111056

For: DISPLAY DEVICE, DISPLAY METHOD AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A personal interview was conducted by Applicant's representative with Examiners Thanh Vu and Kristine Kincaid on October 29, 2004. Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiners Vu and Kincaid in the personal interview. A summary of the substance of that personal interview is contained in the following remarks.

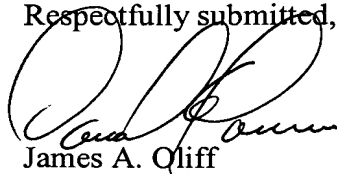
Applicant's representative presented arguments distinguishing the subject matter of independent claim 1 over U.S. Patent No. 5,880,727 to Barrett et al. (hereinafter "Barrett"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,469,719 to Kino et al. (hereinafter "Kino"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,754,179 to Hocker et al. (hereinafter "Hocker"). Specifically, Applicant's representative reiterated arguments that were presented in an Amendment filed on October 25 distinguishing the subject matter of each of the independent claims from the inventions disclosed in the combinations of the applied references. Barrett teaches a system and method that enables an assignment of a feature value from a set of preset values for a copy operation to be performed in a reprographic system (Abstract). Kino generally discloses a layout unit

referring to a plurality of menu items which are substantially composed of character strings displayed in a predetermined area of a screen in a graphical user interface of a digital communications apparatus or household appliance (Abstract and col. 1, lines 17-22 and col. 3, lines 36-53). Hocker teaches a capability to allow a user to rapidly determine interrelatedness of icons on a graphical user interface when an icon is selected by highlighting and/or distinguishing other related icons by one of a number of distinguishing features (Abstract and col. 1, lines 67 - col. 2, line 4).

Applicant's representative pointed out that the subject matter of the claims in this application is directed to a display arrangement control device that determines an arrangement of the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options, and arranges the plurality of user-selectable image forming function options in the predetermined arrangement. Applicant's representative argued that none of the applied references taken alone or in varying combinations, teaches or suggests such a display arrangement control device.

The Examiners agreed that the Amendment appears to overcome the applied prior art.
Any questions regarding this communication should be directed to Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DAT/jfb

Date: November 2, 2004

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